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23 SEP 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT: "DX" Procurement Rating for OXCART

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Until recently in the OXCART Program, we have been able to exercise procurement priorities without any particular difficulty and without having to surface OXCART among the various agencies which compete for certain critical items that are in short supply. Lately this has become progressively more of a problem, until we are now faced with a requirement to at least surface "a project" by name in the list of projects or programs which are assigned the highest priority rating, namely "DX". The current situation is brought about largely as a consequence of the purchase of additional aircraft in the form of R-12's. At the present time, the "DX" rating is held by eleven projects. As we understand it, the "DX" rating can only be assigned by the President and this is often done on the basis of a recommendation from the Secretary of Defense.

3. We were informed by Colonel Geary's office on 19 September 1963 that Deputy Secretary of Defense Gilpatric planned to discuss the requirement initially with a cleared White House Staff member, probably Major General Chester V. Clifton or possibly Mr. McGeorge Bundy. It was the Department of Defense's intention to identify the program as Project ☐ (i. e. OXCART, KEDLOCK, ☐ ☐

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4. On 23 September 1963 we learned that instead of personal contact, the DOD transmitted a letter to Mr. Bundy indicating the nature of the problem. It is understood Mr. Bundy obtained the

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President's approval and commissioned Mr. Bromley Smith to accomplish the formalities. This will consist of assigning the "DX" rating to Project [ ] and notifying the following of the action taken: The Vice President; the Secretaries of State, Defense and Commerce; Director, Bureau of the Budget; Administrator, NASA; Chairman, AEC and Director, Office of Emergency Planning. The notification to these officials gives no indication of the nature of the Project.

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5. It is our feeling that the action taken by the Defense Department was necessary and that in so doing we are merely identifying as Project [ ] the "mystery program" which in the past has had preferential consideration but did not appear on the "DX" list.

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

JACK C. LEDFORD  
Colonel USAF  
Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

cc: DD/S&T

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EO/OSA/[ ]:jn (23 Sept 63)

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